

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent pad, comprising:  
a single layer including between 30 and 85 wt% superabsorbent material homogeneously mixed with between 15 and 70 wt% pulp fluff;  
wherein the single-layer absorbent pad has a density greater than about 0.28 grams per cubic centimeter, an absorbent capacity between about 14 and 40 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent pad, and a thickness in a range of between 0.5 and 3.0 millimeters.

2. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad has a density greater than about 0.30 grams per cubic centimeter.

3. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad has a density greater than about 0.32 grams per cubic centimeter.

4. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad comprises between 40 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material.

5. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad comprises between 50 and 75 wt% superabsorbent material.

6. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of man-made fibers.

7. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of carrier particles.

8. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad is between 0.6 and 2.5 millimeters thick.

9. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad is between 0.7 and 2.0 millimeters thick.

10. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad has an absorbent saturation capacity of at least 16 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent pad.

11. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad has an absorbent saturation capacity of at least 18 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent pad.

12. (Previously Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.65.

13. (Previously Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.75.

14. (Previously Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.85.

15. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent pad of Claim 1.

16. (Original) A diaper comprising the absorbent pad of Claim 1.

17. (Original) A training pant comprising the absorbent pad of Claim 1.

18. (Original) A feminine hygiene product comprising the absorbent pad of Claim 1.

19. (Original) An incontinence product comprising the absorbent pad of Claim 1.

20. (Original) A swim wear garment comprising the absorbent pad of Claim 1.

21. (Currently Amended) An absorbent pad, comprising:  
a single layer including between 30 and 85 wt% superabsorbent material; and  
between 15 and 70 wt% pulp fluff;  
wherein the single-layer absorbent pad has a density greater than about 0.30 grams per cubic centimeter, a thickness in a range of between 0.5 and 3.0 millimeters, and the superabsorbent material forms a gradient within the absorbent pad.

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22. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad comprises between 40 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material.

23. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad comprises between 50 and 75 wt% superabsorbent material.

24. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, further comprising a plurality of man-made fibers.

25. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, further comprising a plurality of carrier particles.

26. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad is between 0.6 and 2.5 millimeters thick.

27. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad is between 0.7 and 2.0 millimeters thick.

28. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad has an absorbent saturation capacity between about 14 and 40 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent pad.

29. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad has an absorbent saturation capacity of at least 16 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent pad.

30. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad has an absorbent saturation capacity of at least 18 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent pad.

31. (Previously Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.65.

32. (Previously Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.75.

33. (Previously Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.85.

34. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad includes more superabsorbent material at a first end than at a second end opposite the first end.

35. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad includes more superabsorbent material along a top surface than along a bottom surface.

36. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the absorbent pad includes more superabsorbent material along a bottom surface than along a top surface.

37. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein a concentration of the superabsorbent material varies throughout the gradient by about 0.01 to about 0.40 grams per cubic centimeter.

38. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein a concentration of the superabsorbent material varies throughout the gradient by about 0.05 to about 0.35 grams per cubic centimeter.

39. (Original) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein a concentration of the superabsorbent material varies throughout the gradient by about 0.15 to about 0.25 grams per cubic centimeter.

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Claims 40-56 (Canceled)

57. (New) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent pad has a higher basis weight in a first zone than in a second zone.

58. (New) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, further comprising a wrap material encompassing the single-layer absorbent pad.

59. (New) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein edge compression of the absorbent pad is between about 2726 and about 3615 gm-cm.

60. (New) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the single-layer absorbent pad is formed to a specific shape.

61. (New) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, further comprising a wrap material encompassing the single-layer absorbent pad.

62. (New) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein edge compression of the absorbent pad is between about 2726 and about 3615 gm-cm.

63. (New) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the single-layer absorbent pad is formed to a specific shape.

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